



National Perspective on the Watershed-Based Approach

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AK Native Village of Kivalina²



3

How Do We Restore Our Lands?

- American Indians have a distinctive cultural and spiritual connection to the land
- Many landscapes have been altered and often do not adequately support resources important to the tribes
- The **watershed approach** is a tool that can be used to heal and restore the bonds between the community and the land



4

Targeting Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Until you have quantitative knowledge of:
 - a) The nature and source of the WQ problem
 - b) Your water-quality based goals
 - c) The BMPs most effective at solving your impairments....

YOU'RE NOT READY TO IMPLEMENT BMPS

..... Unless you're lucky!

5

The Watershed Approach

- NPS Program Priority
- Focus on the Watershed Approach
 1. Diverse, well integrated partnerships
 2. A specific geographic focus
 3. Action driven by environmental objectives and strong science and data
 4. Coordinated priority setting and integrated solutions

6

Watershed Plans

(2000 Madison Report)

- Convergence of opinion that “watershed plans are necessary precedents for successful watershed management, protection, and restoration interventions..”
- In a recent study,.. “the use of watershed plans was the only factor with a high correlation with potential positive environmental outcomes.”

(Trout Unlimited & Pacific Rivers Council)



Bit of History

- 1997: EPA was directed by the Clinton Administration to develop a Clean Water Action Plan
- In FY99 Congress authorized an additional \$100K (i.e. incremental funding) to be used to implement Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRAS).
 - Unified Watershed Assessments (UWA) used to develop WRAS were found not to be very effective- 319 program was not demonstrating water quality improvements
- FY02 319 Supplemental Guidance: 9 elements of a WBP first introduced
- FY03 319 Guidelines (most current): States are required to have WBPs in place in areas where incremental funds are used to implement BMPs.

Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant Funds History

FY	Grant Total (in millions)
1990	\$37.0
1991	\$51.0
1992	\$52.5
1993	\$50.0
1994	\$80.0
1995	\$100.0
1996	\$100.0
1997	\$100.0
1998	\$105.0
1999	\$200.0
2000	\$200.0
2001	\$237.5
2002	\$237.5
2003	\$238.5
2004	\$237.0
2005	\$207.3
2006	\$204.3
2007	\$199.3

9

NINE Elements of Tribal Watershed-Based Plans (WBP) for NPS Program

- Identification of causes and sources at the sub-category level that need to be controlled to achieve WQ goals
- Description of the NPS management measures needed for implementation to achieve *water quality-based goals* and ID critical areas
- An estimate of *water quality-based goals* expected to be achieved (quantitative or narrative)
- Estimate of needed technical & financial resources

10

NINE Elements of Tribal watershed-based plans for NPS Program, cont.

- e) Information/education component
- f) Schedule (who does what, when?)
- g) Description of measurable milestones for implementation
- h) Criteria to determine whether *water quality-based goals* are being achieved over time (adaptive management component)
- i) Monitoring component to evaluate effectiveness of implementation efforts

Reference: FY 2007 Tribal 319 Guidelines

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/tribal/>

11

Scale of Planning

- Tend to focus at the 10 or 12-digit HUC level

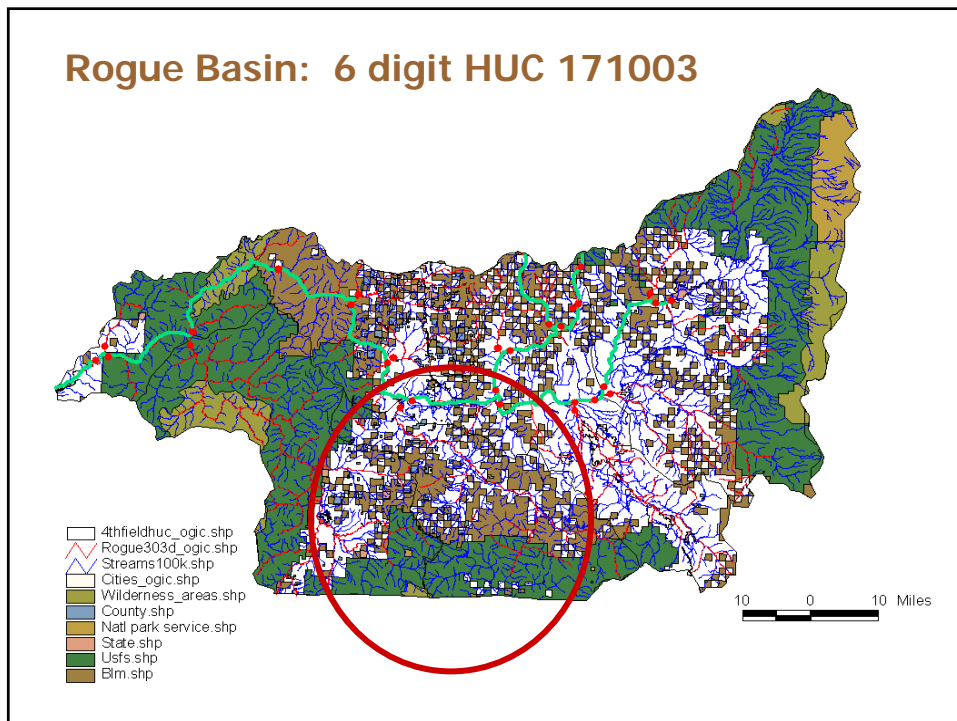
Key: Ensure that the area is small enough to manage, but large enough to address water quality impairments and concerns of stakeholders

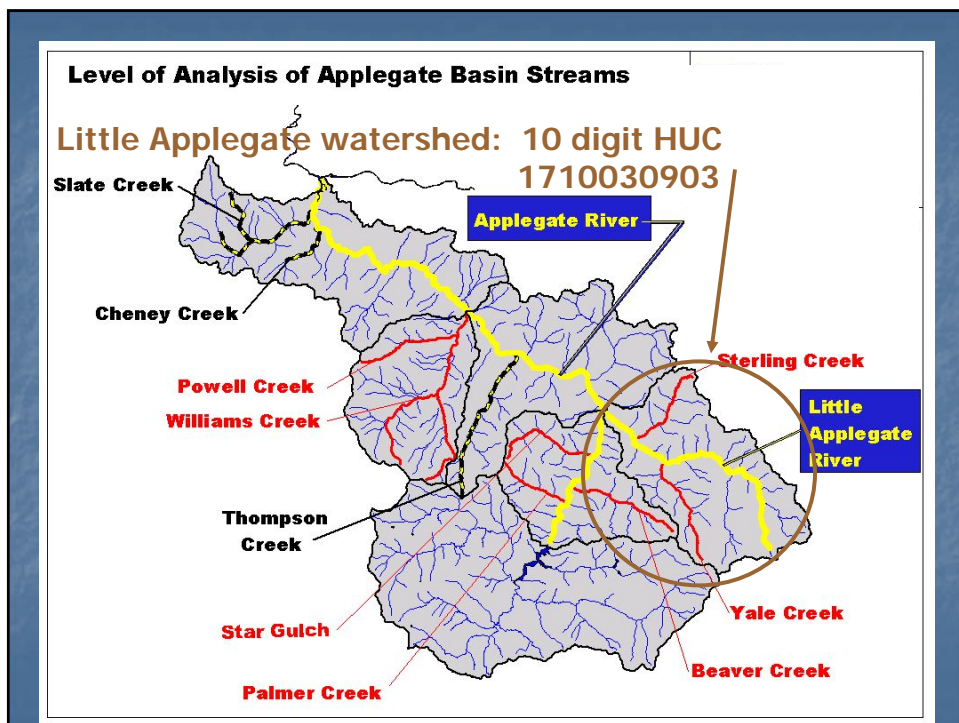
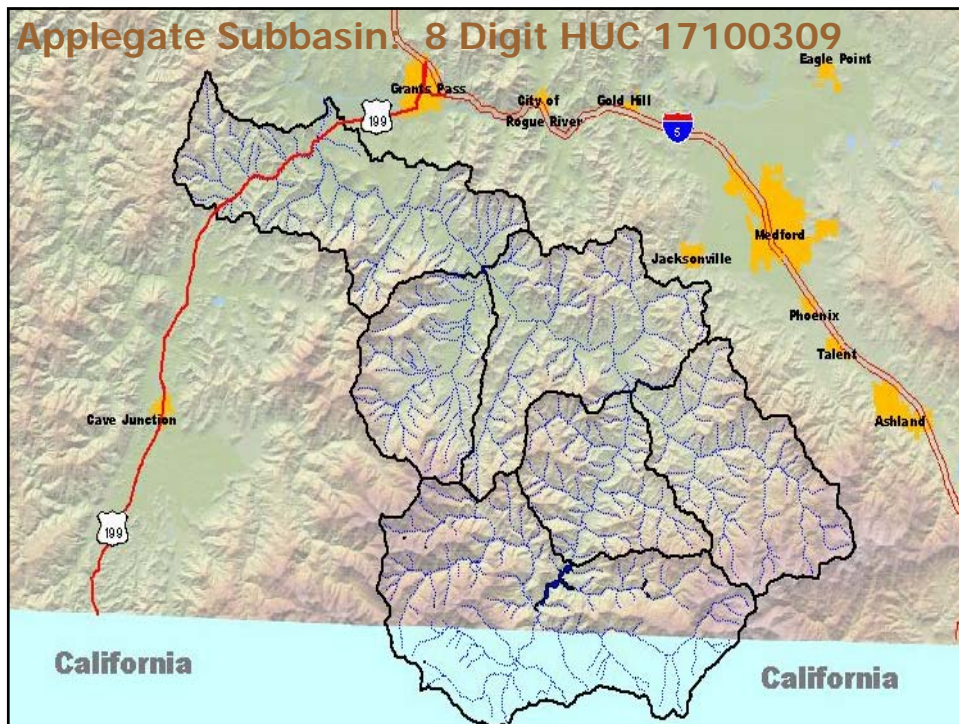


Watershed Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Breakdown Example



Rogue Basin: 6 digit HUC 171003





Invest in Partnerships



- ❑ Identification of stakeholders
- ❑ Increased public understanding
- ❑ Avoid redundancy
- ❑ Access to technical expertise and resources
- ❑ Leverage funding

Collaborative Problem-Solving

- Vehicle through which traditional tools can be successfully applied to address:
 - WQ impairments
 - endangered species
 - water allocations
 - flood and drought management
 - habitat restoration

In balance with..... Jobs, sustainable agriculture and forest management, urban/community development...

Collaborative Problem-Solving

Successful Collaboration Can:

- Address complex issues
- Leverage scarce resources
- Reduce conflict and litigation
- Promote innovation and integration

= **significant, measurable watershed improvements!!**



19

Collaborative Problem-Solving

■ Potential Barriers:

- Multiple ownerships w/in a watershed
- Uncooperative partners
- Lack of funding/resources
- Staff turnover

Ever feel like there's no way out?



Collaborative Problem-Solving

- Potential Solutions:
 - Focus efforts on those partners willing to work with you—both inside and outside the reservation boundaries
 - Look for low-hanging fruit e.g. start by developing NPS ed. programs for kids—as you develop your program and gain trust and success, go for the more controversial issues
 - Explore other funding opportunities outside 319, 106, etc. to augment program and support staffing

21

Don't Re-invent the Wheel to develop a WBP

- Reference your A&M plan
- UWA plans
- Reference other relevant documents to develop plan (e.g. NEPA documents, state/watershed group WBPs, WQMPs, etc.)
- Various EPA watershed tools
- Consult with your friendly Region 5 EPA staff – will “certify” your WBP contains the minimum 9 elements

Take Home Message: Talk to people and look for existing information!

22

One More Thing...

- Tribes are not required to do WBPs
- HOWEVER, for competitive 319 grants, the Review Committee may give priority consideration to high quality workplans that develop and/or implement WBPs

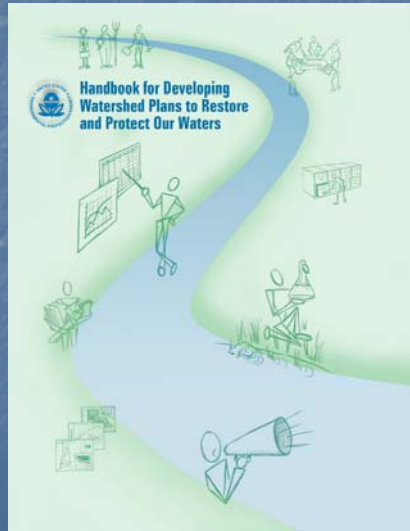
23

One More Thing, part 2

- Watershed-Based planning is probably the best tool we have right now to restore watersheds
- Ensures that every precious penny put into the ground is used effectively (mostly!)
- Gets people talking



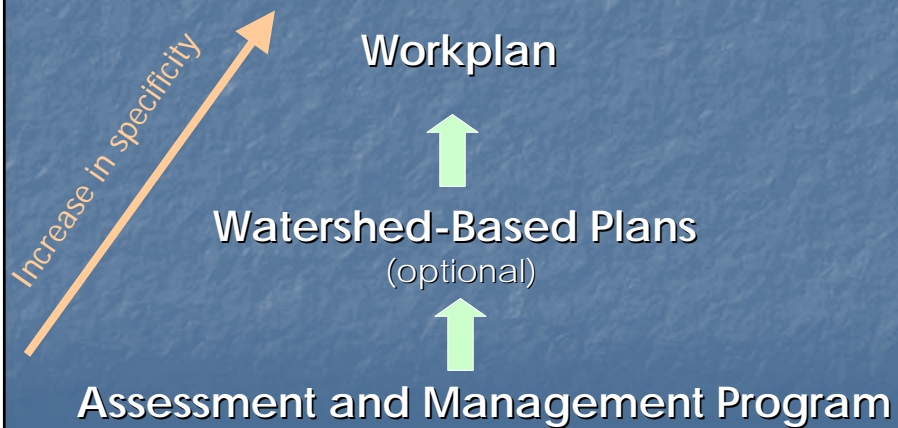
For Greater Detail on Developing WBPs...



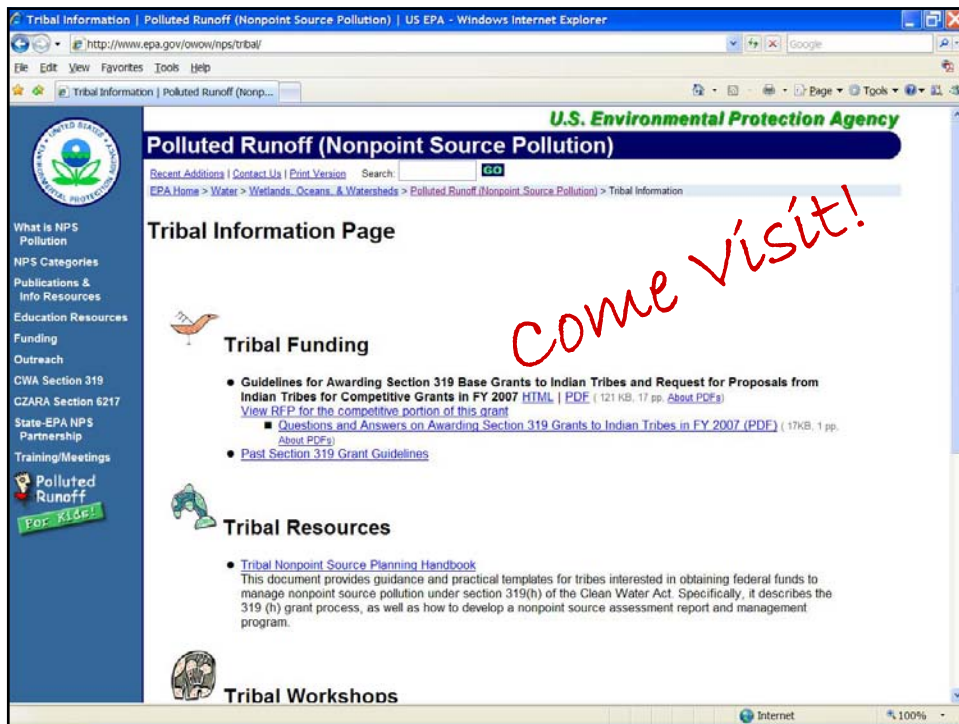
http://www.epa.gov/nps/watershed_handbook/

25



What's The Difference?




26



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28